
Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Ross Guida	Recommenders Title:	Dr.
Recommenders Institution:	Sam Houston State University	Contact Name:	Sophia Gump
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	12/22/2023 11:57 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000112252242	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:	Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu
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Other Information

Created Time:	11/15/2023 01:06 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	12/22/2023 11:57 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOSCIENCES

December 22, 2023

Master of Environmental Studies Program
The Evergreen State College

Dear Environmental Studies Graduate Committee,

This letter is in support of Sophia Gump's application for The Evergreen State College Master of Environmental Studies program. I feel I am in a strong place to recommend Sophia as I had her in my 4000-level Geomorphology course Spring 2023. I have also been her academic advisor since the Fall of 2021, as I am the Coordinator and lead undergraduate advisor for the Environmental Science B.S., the Sam Houston State degree program that Sophia will graduate from May 2024.

Sophia is in the top 5% of students I've had in our program at SHSU, since the re-introduction of Environmental Science at SHSU in 2018. Sophia has performed well in her courses, as evidenced by her 3.77 SHSU GPA and her 3.73 within her major. Achieving a high GPA is not easy to do in our Environmental Science program, given it requires a minimum of 12 lab science courses and a diversity of classes across multiple disciplines. Beyond her GPA, Sophia was a pleasure to have in class, as she really seems to enjoy learning and will ask questions to delve deeper into the material. Though my Geomorphology class is a challenge for many students that are focused on the social, policy, and economic components of environmental work, she did a good job mastering the physical science material by the end of the semester.

Beyond her traditional coursework, I also oversaw Sophia's 2022 summer credit for doing a paid internship with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). She was able to conduct environmental investigations and received exemplary reviews from her employer. Further, she put together a great final report that explained how all her course material at SHSU was applied in her TCEQ regulatory position. Writing is definitely one of Sophia's strengths.

Beyond her performance in the classroom, Sophia has also continued to work during the semester and is part of the SHSU rock climbing team. Based on her customer service-oriented work experience and club participation, as well as her in-class group work, she seems to get along very well with our department faculty and staff and her fellow students. She also has a fun, dry sense of humor that's enjoyable to be around once you get to know her personality.

Starting around a year ago, Sophia and I started discussing graduate school for her to pursue environmental-related programs. I am really happy to see her applying given her taste of environmental regulation work at TCEQ and her excellent academic performance at SHSU. It seems she has realized she can pursue different opportunities by earning her Master's degree, and as one of our best students here at SHSU, I believe she will be a strong graduate student. Given her love for learning about the environment and her passion for the outdoors, I believe she is a strong fit for The Evergreen State College. For the reasons outlined above, I am happy to recommend Sophia, and I hope she will be strongly considered for any funding opportunities that



Sam Houston State University

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are available. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Ross Guida
Associate Professor
Environmental Science Undergraduate Coordinator
Co-PI NSF GEOPATHS GET Texas project
Dept. of Environmental and Geosciences
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